

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Frey Supports Casino Impact Study



HARTFORD - State Rep. John H. Frey, R-Ridgefield, today pledged strong support for a proposed study on the impact casino gambling in Connecticut has on various social issues. Rep. Frey said state government should contribute funding toward the study.

According to published reports, social issues that would be studied in relation to casinos include addictive gambling, divorce, bankruptcy, and crime. Connecticut statutes do call for a similar study to be conducted by the state Division of Special Revenue by June 2007. However, the study should be completed sooner, said Rep. Frey, and funded by the state.

“A thorough study of these issues could certainly help prevent another casino,” said Rep. Frey, who is a longtime opponent of expanding casino gaming in Connecticut “Clearly, supporters of casino gaming are not giving up their efforts in our state and compiling data regarding the negative impact of another casino should be done as soon as possible.”

As part of Rep. Frey’s opposition to expanding casino gambling in Connecticut, he strongly advocated for a special legislative session called in January 2003 to repeal Connecticut’s ‘Las Vegas Nights’ statutes. The repeal of the statutes, which was approved that year, was also designed to prevent the establishment of new casinos in Connecticut.

Also, in 2003, at Rep. Frey’s request, the non-partisan State Office of Legislative Research (OLR) issued a report detailing the State of Idaho’s success in changing its gaming laws to prevent new casinos, which has been upheld in federal court. The report indicates it is possible to change state laws to prevent new casinos after allowing casinos to be built.

The following year, he cosponsored legislation that would have forced a study of a new casino’s impact on land, water, air, historic structures and landmarks, likely making it more difficult to open additional casinos in Connecticut.

“Since casino proponents appear to have set their sights on western Connecticut, federal, state and local officials need to work together to prevent establishing one here,” said Rep. Frey. “A new impact study would likely provide even more evidence of the detrimental impact a casino would have on our region.”

